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spoken. In our own country there are also some masters in speaking and writing Latin, especially in the Roman Catholic schools and universities, and until lately we could boast of the only Latin newspaper published in the world. I refer to the *Præco Latinus*, published in Philadelphia by Mr. Arcadius Avellanus, whose methods of teaching deserve far greater consideration than they seem to have received.

I cannot help here referring to some elegant Greek verse that has attracted wide attention in the classical world. I mean the "Songs of Bilitis," a literary fraud of some twenty odd Greek poems by M. Pierre Louÿs, so charming and so natural that the fraud imposed itself upon some of the great German scholars. Dr. Jebb, of Cambridge, England, has also written some beautiful Greek poetry, of which some may be found in the *Classical Review*. Dr. Tyrrell, of Dublin University, has shown us how well select passages of Shakspeare may be turned into Latin in the style of Plautus.

In view of this poetical work, and especially of the admirable labors of Mr. Horton-Smith, we are surely entitled to deny that Latin and Greek are dead. They are dead languages only to those to whom they do not speak. Long may they live, and may our teachers in America strive to bring up pupils who can write real prose and verse, not merely string together Latin and Greek words by the bonds of syntax.

CHARLES W. BAIN.

MISS ELLIOTT'S NEW STORIES.

AN INCIDENT AND OTHER HAPPENINGS. By Sarah Barnwell Elliott. New York: Harpers. 1899.

One of the very first of Southerners to give literary expression to the peculiar life of their section as the old order was changing before their eyes was Sarah Barnwell Elliott, daughter of Bishop Elliott, of Georgia. External conditions were unfavorable to her early productivity, but this very restraint has given to her work a maturity and a concentrated strength that we miss in the facile prolixity of some of her Southern countrywomen. So her latest volume, "An

Incident and Other Happenings," is indeed to us a happening of some literary significance, and surely one of the best. We are not sure that it is not the best volume of short stories that has come to our notice this season. The last two stories in the book are indeed unworthy of their company. "Mrs. Gollyhaw's Candy Stew" betrays the hand of the genial tyro in fiction, and "Baldy" is simply trivial. The other six are, however, all excellent, and two, at least, really admirable in the precision of an art that suggests that of maupassant. "Without the Courts" succeeds in twelve pages in conveying to the reader, almost wholly by subtle suggestion, a whole tragedy of crime in all its essential details. There seems here no superfluous word; indeed, the conciseness is such that one's first impulse after reading the story is immediately to read it again, and we can testify that the result is redoubled literary enjoyment of a high artistic character. Next to this we should rank "An Incident," a tale of attempted assault and lynching that has an uncanny power. The conclusion of this story, the teacher's wonder "if her work, if *any* work, would avail" to solve the negro problem, has been faulted as unduly pessimistic; to which Miss Elliott's answer would probably be: "Come and see." "Squire Cayley's Conclusions," too, do not justify an optimistic view of an immediate change of heart on the subject of honor and the obligations of a gentleman to be his own judge, lawyer, and sheriff, when that intangible entity is at stake. "Faith and Faithfulness" brings Northern and Southern ideals into a more agreeable contrast, in which there is a delightful vein of pathetic sympathy which in "An Ex-Brigadier" crosses the border line of humor. And finally in "Miss Maria's Revival" we have a glimpse of the Southern attitude toward several phases of religious life. It will be seen that, though all these stories are Southern, none of them are prevailingly African, and the "poor white" refreshes us by his absence. Dialect is never obtruded; indeed, there is little occasion for it. All this makes the book more universal in its appeal than any book Miss Elliott has yet written. It shows progress in every direction. The

critic may commend its permanence, but will take even greater pleasure in its promise of work to come.

— B. W. W.

THE FORMATION OF A NATION.

THE UNION OF ITALY. By W. J. Stillman. New York: The Macmillan Company.

One of the most fascinating and dramatic episodes in the history of Europe during the nineteenth century is the success of those various movements in the Italian peninsula which have culminated in the present kingdom of Italy. Even the most optimistic friend of the House of Savoy could not indeed profess his belief that under its leadership the Italian people had gained all that they contended for during the years of secret intrigue and open revolt which preceded the final acquisition of the prize of independence. If this be true of the admirers of the present Italian dynasty, it is all the more improbable that the impartial critic will conceal from himself the many discouraging and incongruous elements in the social and political life of Italy under the present *régime*. But notwithstanding these patent blemishes, what the Italians have accomplished, and the way they have accomplished it, certainly justify the assertion that a narrative containing a detailed account of Italian history during the course of this century cannot fail to interest the English-speaking public. It should be, besides, an undisguised gratification to the American branch of that public to find among their countrymen two of the most successful interpreters of this period of history. To unfold the causes of Italian unity requires the display of a high order of talent in historical narrative. To unite in one comprehensive whole the scattered threads of the various revolutionary movements throughout the peninsula which resulted in throwing off the yoke of foreign oppression is no easy matter. Mr. Thayer's volumes on this portion of Italian history met with immediate recognition, and they will always maintain a creditable place in American historical literature. The present volume deals not only with the early phases of the "Risorgimento," but also brings the history of Italy down to the years that have